

Joseph D. Vaughan Award

The Joseph D. Vaughan Award was initiated in 1962 to memorialize the Honorable Joseph D. Vaughan, a New Hampshire legislator who was an early advocate on behalf of the elderly. He was also instrumental in the creation of a state agency dedicated to the well being of senior citizens.

The Vaughan Award is presented annually by the New Hampshire State Committee on Aging and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services. It recognizes outstanding volunteer leadership and initiative among senior citizens on behalf of our State's elderly.

The 2006 Vaughan Recipients

Belknap County - Fred Smith

All too often, the high cost of prescription drugs forces people to choose between paying for their medicines or putting food on the table. As a volunteer with The Medication Connection Program at Lakes Region General Hospital, Fred helps people with limited incomes obtain free or reduced-cost prescriptions from pharmaceutical companies. He has championed this cause both in word and deed, donating two full days of his time each week to assist people with the application process. In addition, he supports The Medication Connection Program by speaking about it in the community and recruiting other volunteers. Fred's enthusiasm and dedication are truly a gift to the people of the Lakes Region!

Carroll County - Miles Waltz, MD

Dr. Waltz, who practiced medicine in North Conway for more than 40 years before retirement, has gone from being a fulltime physician to a fulltime volunteer! He is a tireless supporter of the Gibson Center for Senior Services, delivering meals to the homebound, and assisting with other projects. He is also a trained volunteer ombudsman, advocating for residents at a local nursing home, and as a HICEAS volunteer, he helps people unravel the mysteries of Medicare. Miles is an active member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, and gives of his time to numerous community activities, among them the American Legion, the local elementary school, and the North Conway Library. In December, visitors who board the "Polar Express" excursion train can count on a cheerful greeting from Miles! His care, compassion and commitment have touched people of all ages.

Cheshire County - Charlie Loos

In 1989, when Charlie began his volunteer work at Cheshire Medical Center and Dartmouth Hitchcock in Keene, only 25 people had been served by the Center's Lifeline program. Lifeline devices, once installed in a person's home, enable them to summon emergency help quickly. Today, thanks to Charlie, 430 Lifeline devices are in service, and the number is growing. Charlie spends countless hours traveling throughout the Monadnock Region to install, clean and repair Lifeline devices, and instruct people in their use. Both staff and volunteers alike recognize his commitment, work ethic and attention to detail. His dedicated service enables Lifeline recipients to live safely and independently. Charlie is truly a "lifeline" for the Cheshire Medical Center, patients, and families.

Coos County - Mary Jane Falkenham & Elwin Falkenham, MD

Caleb Caregivers, which serves the elderly in eight northern New Hampshire towns, surely has a winning team in Dr. Elwin and Mary Jane Falkenham. The Falkenham's volunteer much of their time transporting elderly and disabled persons to medical appointments, often at short notice. This caring and attentive couple often drive people to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, a two-hour journey one way from their home in Lancaster. In 2005, the Falkenham's donated over 156 hours to the Caleb Caregivers, and drove 3,857 miles. They also give their time to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Christ United Methodist Church, and Serve New England, a private nonprofit organization that encourages people to volunteer in their communities. Dr. Falkenham is also a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. They truly make a difference to the citizens of the North Country.

Grafton County - William "Bill" Morris

At the Glencliff Home for the Elderly, there are 107 residents ranging in age from 39 to 93 who are affected by mental illness. Many have no family or friends to visit them. But for the last three years, volunteer Bill Morris has been making a big difference in their lives. Bill spends three days a week, 52 weeks a year, with the residents, often bringing books, movies or special foods to share, or taking residents on fishing or camping trips and other excursions. Most of all, by talking, sharing and listening, Bill manages to reach residents who are depressed and unresponsive, thereby rekindling the spark of life within. One staff member had this to say: "Bill has moved beyond the role of volunteer, and has become family. He touches the souls of a very special clientele."

Hillsborough County - Joseph "Joe" Amirault

Since January 2003, Joe Amirault has volunteered his time to the Meals on Wheels Program at St. Joseph Community Services in Nashua, delivering meals to elderly and disabled homebound clients. In 2005 alone, Joe contributed 200 hours of service. He often does this five days a week, and is always ready to step in when there is a shortage of drivers. The meals he delivers and the safety checks he provides, help elderly and disabled persons to go on living in their own homes. Joe has also suggested innovative ways to restructure delivery routes to make them more efficient, and as a member of the Volunteer Steering Committee, he has inspired others to volunteer. Joe's gift of his time and talents helps ensure that St. Joseph Community Services can continue meeting the needs of Meals on Wheels Program participants.

Merrimack County - Emily Gulick

If you've visited the Twin Rivers Intergenerational Program in Franklin, also known as the Trip Center, you've probably seen Emily leading the line dancing classes for seniors, which she has done for eight years, representing Franklin Regional Hospital. She also helps to serve meals, at the Center, help with holiday parties and other special events. A former nurse, Emily also serves on the board of the Franklin Visiting Nurses Association and the Advisory Council for the Trip Center, is a Hospice Volunteer, and has served as a trained volunteer ombudsman, advocating for residents at a local nursing home. In addition, she is President of the Apollo Senior Club, which raises money for community projects. Emily gives at least 500 hours of her time each year. Her strong commitment to caring for others has truly made a difference.

Rockingham County - Minabell Bowden

Imagine 25,000 birthday gifts, 1.5 square miles of birthday cake and 1,000 gallons of ice cream. Now you can begin to picture how many joyous celebrations Minabell Bowden has contributed to over the last 26 years! Since 1980, Minabell and the other volunteers she recruited have been giving monthly birthday parties for residents of Haven Healthcare, a skilled nursing facility located in Hampton. After enjoying cake, ice cream, and a good old-fashioned "sing-along" led by Minabell and her two-guitar band, each resident receives a special gift and a hug! Minabell and her group also entertain at Haven Healthcare's Christmas parties and other special events. Her kindness, good cheer and enthusiasm have helped residents to find joy in living, and to feel valued and loved.

Strafford County - Claudine Wilkinson & David Wilkinson

Claudine and David first became involved with the Homemakers of Strafford County in Rochester ten years ago, and in the last year alone, donated more than 250 hours of service. They frequently drive people to medical appointments, help with fundraising events, and deliver holiday food baskets. David also volunteers with Frisbie Hospital in Rochester, installing medical alert devices. The Wilkinsons also reach out to people in their neighborhood and church community, baking, cooking meals, and providing support and friendship. Both are well known for their generous hearts, kind speech, and lives of service and compassion. Truly, it can be said that in the Wilkinsons, humanity is twice blessed and twice renewed!

Sullivan County - June Liberman & Jack Liberman

When people in Newport hear the names Jack and June Liberman, they can be sure there's an activity going on, often outdoors! Experienced mountain climbers and world travellers, the Libermans have long been active in nature preservation. This energetic couple has also volunteered their time for many endeavors in the town of Newport, including driving people to medical appointments, and showing slides of their travels at area nursing homes. They are past local organizers of, and contributors of blood to, the Red Cross Bloodmobile. They also served on a task force for Valley Regional Hospital, where they were instrumental in gaining grant funds and installing a walking, recreation and fitness trail near the Connecticut Valley Health Care Building on the John Stark Highway. This year, the Libermans received the Distinguished Citizens Award for the town of Newport. Citizens there say, thank you very much, Jack and June- it is a pleasure and an honor being your neighbors!



"Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take on a spirit of compassion, comradeship and confidence."

Brian O'Connell



Joseph D. Vaughan

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sponsored by

**The State Committee on Aging
and
The New Hampshire Department
of Health and Human Services,
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